

CLAIMS

1. Method for processing a supple porous textile piece (6) comprising at least one first surface (27) and one second surface (25) adjacent to the first surface (27), the processing being applied on the second surface (25) and not on the first surface (27), the method being of the type comprising the following stages:

- The textile piece (6) is placed on a departure area (11).
- 10 - A mobile pick-up head (4) equipped with a suction plate (30) is moved so as to be above the textile piece (6).
- The pick-up head (4) carries the piece (6) to a processing area (8) equipped with processing means (9).
- 15 - Processing is carried out on the second surface (25), the piece (6) still being held in position by the pick-up head (4), the relative movements between the processing means (9) and the piece (6), required for processing the second surface (25), being obtained by movement of the head (4) and/or movement of the processing means (9).
- 20 - The pick-up head (4) picks up the textile piece (6) from the processing area (8), carries it to an arrival area (11) and releases it there.
- 25 - The textile piece (6) is removed from the arrival area (11),

the method being characterised in that:

- A non-porous mobile mask (18) with a shape corresponding to the first surface (27) is previously placed on the departure area (11).
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- A mobile pick-up head (4) with suction plate (30) with corresponding shape to said mask (18) is moved above the textile piece (6).
- The pick-up head (4) carries the piece (6) and the mask (18) to the processing area (8) equipped with processing means (9).
- The second surface (25) is processed while the piece (6) and the mask (18) are still held in position by the pick-up head (4).
- The pick-up head (4) picks up the textile piece (6) and the mask (18) from the processing area (8) and carries them to the arrival area (11), and then releases them there.

2. Method according to claim 1, characterised in that the first surface is an internal surface (27) and the second surface is a marginal surface (25) surrounding the first surface (27) at least partially.

3. Method according to either one or the other of claims 1 or 2, characterised in that the arrival area (11) is then used as departure area (11) during a later cycle.

4. Method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, characterised in that the processing is a cutting out operation.

5. Device for processing a supple porous textile piece (6) comprising at least one first surface (27) and one second surface (25) adjacent to the first surface (27), the processing being carried out on the second surface (25) and not on the first surface (27) the device being of the type comprising:

- A departure area (11) and an arrival area (11) for placing the textile piece (6).
- A processing area (8) equipped with processing means (9).

- A pick-up head (4) equipped with a suction plate (30) mobile between the departure area (11), the processing area (8) and the arrival area (11), the device being characterised in that:

- 5    - The departure area (11) is equipped with a non-porous mobile mask (18) corresponding to the shape of the first surface (27),
- The mobile pick-up head (4) has a suction plate (30) with a shape corresponding to said mask (18).

10        6. Device according to claim 4, characterised in that the departure area and/or arrival area (11) has an upper surface composed of two half-plates (13) separated by a space (12).

15        7. Device according to either one or the other of claims 4 or 5, characterised in that the departure area and/or the arrival area (11) is constituted of at least one pull-out tray (7).

20        8. Device according to any one of claims 4 to 6, characterised in that the pick-up head (4) comprises a suction plate (30) composed of two separated parts.

     9. Device according to any one of claims 4 to 7, characterised in that the pick-up head (4) is carried by a multi-axis robot (2).